

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, claim 3 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was said to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. In particular, the Final Office Action indicated that the spacing between the grooves found in claim 3 provided a structural difference between the present invention and Shiraishi (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,530).

With the present amendments, the spacing limitations found in claim 3 have been added to independent claims 1, 11 and 19. As noted in the Final Office Action, Shiraishi makes no mention of grooves being separated by such a distance or of the resulting effect of such spacing in causing turbulent airflow to be kept some distance away from a surface. As such, independent claims 1, 11 and 19 and claims 2-8, 12-18 and 21-23, which depend therefrom, are patentable over Shiraishi. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: 

Theodore M. Magee, Reg. No. 39,758  
Suite 1400 - International Centre  
900 Second Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319  
Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 334-3312

TMM:sew